



Benson Neighbourhood Plan Report – Annual Parish Meeting 2017

After just over a year of hard work by the Steering Group, Comms Team and Working Groups, the Draft Benson Neighbourhood Plan was submitted for consultation at the end of March this year.

To have reached this point in just over a year is a remarkable achievement considering some Plans take 3 years to reach the point. During the 15 months it has taken to produce the Draft Plan the Team has collected and analysed data to support the findings in the Plan, held 8 different consultation events ranging from village meetings to a stall at the Summer Fayre to a Housing Needs Survey. We have also tried to keep people informed via updates in the Benson Bulletin, Neighbourhood Plan website, Parish Council website and Facebook page.

The Draft Plan recommends 355 houses across 4 sites put forward by developers on the proviso that an “Edge Road” is built to the North of Benson. The 355 houses are in addition to the permissions already provided at Littleworth Road.

The consultation period for the Draft Plan ended on the 14th April and the Team are busy considering the 40+ responses that were received from residents, developers and statutory bodies (e.g. SODC). It has become clear from the responses received that we need to do further work to secure the Edge Road, both in evidence terms to justify its need, securing its route through development sites and funding connections to the existing road infrastructure.

If all goes to Plan we hope to have the next iteration of the Plan examined by an Independent Inspector and then proceed to Referendum by late Summer.